



The monthly magazine of Toc H

*John Cox*

7p June 1973

# POINT THREE





# POINT THREE

June 1973

Editor: Ken Prideaux-Brune  
Associate Editor: Huw Gibbs  
Designer: Michael F Hill MSTD

---

Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

- 1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man
- 2 To give personal service
- 3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others
- 4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

## On the cover:

Several branches have raised money for the purchase of the recently introduced Chairmobile, designed by Lord Snowdon. Sir Thomas Butler, former Governor of the Tower of London, in his capacity as area organiser for Action for the Crippled Child demonstrates the Chairmobile in Clacton, Essex. The demonstration, which was arranged by Toc H to enable local organisations which were considering acquiring one of the chairs to see it put through its paces, was attended by over 100 people. The Chairmobile is fully automatic, can revolve on its own axis and fits under a table or desk like a normal chair.

Photo: East Essex Gazette

---

Point Three is available from Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Buckinghamshire HP22 6BT (Tel: 3911). Single copies 7p; 10 or more copies sent to the same address 6p each.

Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL (Tel: 01-709 0472). Opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Advertising: Display and classified advertisements are included in this magazine. Full rates and data can be obtained from the editorial office.

# VIEWPOINT

## A day in Eurocity

A recent TV programme described Peterborough as 'Eurocity No 1'. With colleagues from the Midland Region I spent a fascinating, if slightly disturbing, day with the Peterborough Development Corporation, seeing something of its plans for increasing the city's population from 90,000 to 190,000 by 1985.

I was impressed by the enthusiasm and excitement with which those we met approached their daunting task of creating whole new townships from scratch. We were all encouraged by the fact that Peterborough has learned from the experience of other new developments and has made provision for community centres and leisure facilities from the start. But at the end of our brief visit we were left with some major questions in our minds.

We spent the afternoon in the company of the voluble and able young Welshman who is in charge of leisure provision in Greater Peterborough. He spoke to us about the need to provide facilities for as many different interests as possible in the minimum amount of space and about the need to use buildings and land for a whole range of different activities. And he shared with us his excitement at the new technologies that make such 'multi-provision' (I think that was the word he used) possible. Like indoor ski slopes using a continuous moving belt, so that the skier just stands still while the snow moves.

That was where the doubts started creeping in. I'm still not quite sure how far our reactions were logical and how far they were simply emotional. But there is no doubt that we were all put off by the thought of a rapidly growing 'leisure industry' - which seems almost a contradiction in terms. We were put off by the pre-packaged, sterilised nature of so many of the activities suggested. And we just plain didn't like the kind of battery hen existence that seemed to be planned for us.

The question raised in our minds, however, is a much deeper one. Whatever one may think of the results the Development Corporation is at least doing what it can to ensure that facilities exist for a wide range of interests. But what percentage of the population will in fact make use of these facilities? Educating people to

make full and creative use of their leisure time is at least as important as providing facilities for bingo and boating, trampolining and trumpet playing. With the probability that many people will have increased leisure time in the future the question becomes even more serious. This is not to say there's anything wrong with a 'slippers and telly' evening (at least I hope there isn't), but that we ought to be looking for ways of helping people to develop all their capacities as fully as possible. This should surely be one of the concerns of Toc H, not just in Peterborough but throughout the country.

The other major question left in our minds was, how do we set about creating a sense of community, particularly in a new development? Providing a well-equipped community centre may be an essential first step but it won't of itself achieve anything. Those who are by nature 'joiners' will use it, but what of the rest? How do we help the lonely to be less isolated? How do patterns of friendship build up? Trying to find answers to questions like these is the job of Toc H, in long established as well as new communities.

Encouraging people to care for one another and to develop to their full potential as human beings is no bad definition of the purpose of Toc H. Our day in Peterborough suggested that this is a vital and urgently needed function.

K P-B

---

## Next month

The mini-handi dance for handicapped people organised by Toc H in Norwich was a spectacular success. A photo feature will appear in *Point Three* next month.

Radio Oxford is the only radio station in the country to carry regular reviews of 'talking books' for the blind. The reviewer is Toc H member Harold Fisher, who is himself blind. He writes about his experiences at the microphone in next month's *Point Three*.

Norwich again. Arthur Smith describes 21 years of hospital broadcasting, culminating in a commentary from Wembley Stadium.



# THE NEWCASTLE CENTRE



The first major project to receive substantial backing from the proceeds of the sale of 15 Trinity Square will be in Newcastle. This exciting experiment in the treatment of personality retarded children has attracted widespread interest among professional workers in the field. It is described by Colin Gregg, a former member of the Central Executive, who is in charge of the project.

In 1968 Adrian Dudman of the Northern Regional staff and I felt that there should be a children's camp in the Newcastle area. In 1969 the Alnmouth children's camp was born, under the direction of a local committee. Alnmouth '70, '71 and '72 followed, and '73 is planned. Alnmouth '69 seems a long way behind us now and much progress has been made.

It was from discussions at the camp that the idea of a treatment centre for personality retarded children developed; during deliberations about extending the camp an adventure type holiday was thought of and from this, eventually - the Centre.

A donor gave us a beautiful house in Alnmouth which would enable us to extend, but for various reasons we were unable to use it. Eventually we had to sell it and with the proceeds set up the Ferryside Trust. I applied to the Trust for a grant to start a treatment Centre and the donor of the Alnmouth house then offered us a house in Newcastle, at less than half its market value, for use as a Centre. A management committee was formed consisting



of the Director of Social Services, two well known psychiatrists, members of the Social Services Department, a headmaster, a JP, representatives of the probation service, Jack Hellowell (chairman of the camp), and Adrian Dudman. They all felt that the Centre had great possibilities and subject to the necessary capital being raised were prepared to offer their backing and expertise.

To date, with £10,000 from the Ferryside Trust, a Toc H grant of £15,000 and a Toc H loan of £15,000 at 3 per cent the total capital cost figure of £50,000 has nearly been reached and the Newcastle Centre has become a reality.

The capital cost is made up as follows: Purchase of property and land (actually valued at twice this sum) £15,000; alterations and extension £25,000, equipment £10,000.

The basic plan for the Centre is to provide diagnosis and treatment for personality retarded children. What are personality retarded children? They are those whose personalities have not developed along with their chronological age. A four or five year old child will manipulate

Toc H has run camps for Newcastle children at Alnmouth each summer since 1969. It was out of this experience that the new project grew and some of those who helped at the camp have offered themselves for the full time staff of the Newcastle centre.





adults to get its own way. At this stage of its development it knows no other way of getting adults to do what it wants. If the child gets its own way every time it screams, ie if its manipulation is allowed to succeed, it will grow older in years but its personality will remain at the manipulation stage. Obviously this is an over simplification and there are many more stages of development than the manipulative stage. The Centre will be taking children whose ages range from 12 to 14 but whose personalities are still at the 'conforming' or 'gang' stage of development (that of a normal seven to eight year old).

How will we treat them? Twenty children will live at the Centre from Mondays to Fridays (we don't want to replace the child's own family or cultural background). It is hoped to have a full time staff of nine and through an exciting programme to develop relationships between the staff and children which will enable them to make vital decisions on their own and learn more about themselves. In this way their personalities will develop and they will come to rely on their own decisions rather than those of their peers or gang.

The Centre will provide full-time education involving all the staff; very much individually based, using the naturally-formed groups. As well as formal education (which I hope will in fact be far from formal!) there will be many activities for which a number of volunteers will be required.

Both staff and children will have quite a say in the everyday running of the Centre and at morning meetings all will have a vote.

We will be dealing with children who have failed at most things they have attempted. They could well have failed at school and at making satisfactory relationships with their friends and with adults, and their parents may have failed to find reasonable housing, etc. Therefore one of the main features of the treatment will be to give them the experience of success.

Projects will play a part in character development. For example a group could be taken to point A and have to find their way to point B, after careful preparation over a number of months. The groups will have leaders, but only to avoid accidents; all decisions will be left to the

children. It would be interesting to see a leader's face when he knows that the group is setting off in the wrong direction and that he will probably have to walk an extra mile or two before the mistake is discovered.

All very exciting, but where does Toc H come in? I have no doubt in my own mind that this is very much a Toc H project. It developed naturally from a much smaller project and one of the most exciting things is that five, or possibly six volunteers from Alnmouth camp have offered their services as staff members at the Centre. However the most important contribution from Toc H is its principle of caring, and caring for underprivileged children has always been a Toc H activity. In this project the relationships between staff and children, between the children themselves and between all concerned are all-important.

It is through good relationships that we can get close to people and without them the Centre could not function.

I have mentioned volunteers and we certainly need a great deal of volunteer help. We are considering the setting up of youth and community projects in the city through which to feed children back in to the community and keep in touch with them. These will have to be staffed by volunteers. These groups and others from the community will use the Centre at weekends. We hope to run weekend courses for other groups of children and adults to stimulate them and through new relationships make their lives more exciting. These courses could include anything from rock climbing to cooking, from football to first aid - and again Toc H involvement.

I hope I have been able to describe the underlying purpose of the Centre in such a way that you realise what a really exciting project it is. The enthusiasm in Newcastle and throughout the Region - both inside and outside Toc H - has been an inspiration to us and my hope is that the Movement will continue to back with thought, prayer and action a project which could well alter the lives of many people.

### Taizé

You are invited to join a party from All Hallows Church and Talbot House, Tower Hill, which will be visiting the French Protestant Community at Taizé for a week, leaving London in mid-July. By minibus or cars. Accommodation in tents. Cost approximately £20. Details from the Rev Michael Anderton, All Hallows, Byward Street, London EC3.



## 'Strengthen the good thing thus begun'

Keith Beck

The well-known words of a prayer attributed to Sir Francis Drake – 'teach us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same till it be thoroughly finished, that yieldeth the true glory' – are applicable to Toc H in more than one sense. If God 'has so wonderfully made Toc H', then it is equally true that it is only God who can bring us to whatever end is within His purpose. Not only as a Movement, a corporate body of people, but also as individuals, each with his or her own experience, problems and potential, we need what has been begun through the activity of God to be continued and strengthened by that activity and power.

Perhaps this is the point at which all of us need to pause and ask 'what is the good thing thus begun?' In the case of Toc H as a Movement, we may well have a variety of answers, depending on what we have understood Toc H to be – this may range from a sort of discussion group or a social service task-force, to a vision of Toc H as a religious order of men and women pledged to a common obedience of living together in love and joy and peace, and to leaping with joy to any task for others. However limited – or however wide and deep – it is important that we never get to the stage at which we feel that there is nothing more to be learnt or said, done or offered. If ever we get to the point at which we consider Toc H to be 'so wonderful', it is time we either started praying hard or else asked an honest friend to tell us the truth!

Yet, when all is said and done, we need to be constantly searching for what God is saying to us about our future. We cannot take it for granted that God will strengthen Toc H in the place or the manner, or at the time, which we think best. Our personal commitment to Marks, or branches, to projects or community work, and our enthusiasm for these things, is no guarantee that God sees 'eye to eye' with us and agrees with our order of priorities! God cannot strengthen those aspects of Toc H which are no longer relevant in a vastly changed society, because they have outlived their usefulness and

have fulfilled their original purpose. We have no right to inflict our enthusiasms on to God – and then reproach Him because He doesn't revive all Marks or expand our existing branches.

We have to be ready for the strengthening to come in some unexpected – and even unwelcome – ways, sometimes in forms which, initially at least, may suggest the reverse effect – a weakening of what is hallowed and accepted. Branches were regarded as 'watering down' the pure Toc H of the Marks; but where would we be without our branches and members?

Volunteer groups and projects have often been scorned as less than the real thing; yet much of our needed new life and leadership is beginning to come from such activity. Toc H is no place for those who are afraid to venture or reluctant to leave the shelter of a roof built up from a mixture of traditional organisation, activity, custom and hallowed language. Perhaps God can only strengthen us if we are first prepared to run the risk of getting wet as the winds of the Spirit blow!

What applies to Toc H as a Movement, is also applicable to each of us as individuals. We believe that God has set us in Toc H for a purpose, and it is our duty to find out and fulfill that purpose. Perhaps we might use some of the earlier phrases in the prayer as a 'check-list' occasionally: asking ourselves: Have we learnt to live in love? Have we really disowned discouragement? Do we try to practice thanksgiving? When did we last do any leaping with joy?

Change is more apparent in other people than in ourselves – few of us realise how old we are, but are conscious of the grey hairs (or lack of hairs) in others. But change there must surely be, if Toc H has done its stuff. If, as G K Chesterton said, 'Toc H changes chaps' some change has surely taken place in us. But however great the change already wrought, it is not yet complete, and we must always be ready to pray (and not just to say) 'strengthen the good thing thus begun' – and to accept the consequences when God takes us at our word.



# Emergency alarm systems

Anyone who has considered introducing an emergency alarm system for elderly people living on their own will be aware of the great variety of devices currently in use. Eric Hodges, Central Councillor for the Swindon District, has conducted a survey of some of the available systems, in his capacity as chairman of the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Old People's Welfare Committee. Here he shares the results of his research with us.

Following the resolution passed at last year's Central Council meeting the Methods Committee is collecting details of the systems used by Toc H. Branches which operate emergency alarm schemes, either on their own or in co-operation with other organisations, are asked to send technical details of the system used, together with comments on its advantages and disadvantages, to the secretary of the Methods Committee, Mrs Greta Lynn, at Toc H Headquarters, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL.

There are a great variety of alarm systems or warning devices for the elderly and the handicapped. Indeed the more one delves into this question the more systems come to light.

The simplest and cheapest warning is to bang on the wall of a neighbour's house with a big stick or poker. From this developed the 'HELP' window card, which could be displayed in windows, with much useful information concerning the personal particulars of the housebound person, such as next-of-kin, on the reverse.

Age Concern, formerly the National Old People's Welfare Council, has published a leaflet listing some 15 addresses of manufacturers of alarm systems. The leaflet does not attempt to evaluate the various types of devices listed.

The Rural District Councils' Association proved most helpful in listing organisations doing research into alarm systems, and in providing a list of 12 addresses of manufacturers, many not listed by Age Concern.

Although the British Standards Institution has been asked by the RDCA to produce at least an advisory document on types of installation, with advantages and disadvantages of each, the reply from BSI was completely negative and most unhelpful. A letter dated January 8 states: 'Whilst your problem is one which merits the greatest assistance I do feel that you might wish to bear in mind that a system such as you

describe (the lavatory cistern system) would be more likely to give rise to false alarms than to real genuine warnings.'

Cricklade & Wootton Bassett RDC is one of many local authorities to have installed an alarm system in its aged persons dwellings. Although, occasionally, an alarm is set off accidentally it has, and does, bring help to someone in need – real need – more often than the reverse. No one really minds the odd occasion when the alarm is triggered off by mistake. I, personally, feel BSI should be asked to re-think its policy and produce a much needed, independent report.

The RDCA also mentioned that Mr Greville Janner, QC, MP, has introduced a Private Members' 'Elderly and Disabled Persons (Warning Device) Bill' to require provision for elderly or disabled persons or others in need. The Bill has had a formal first reading.

Research on about 25 alarms is being undertaken at Loughborough University; and the report, when it is published, will be of great value.

My own research into alarm systems has, of course, been cursory and I have looked at only 12 systems. But I think some general observations can be made and are worth noting.

First, Toc H, Rotary, Lions and the Central Council for the Disabled all produce various types of call systems, some of which are listed below.



Second, the various types can broadly be listed in the following way:

- a) Portable or body worn alarms
- b) Push button or pull cord battery/mains unit alarms
- c) Automatic or interruption-of-routine alarms
- d) Fire Alarms adapted to allow for manual operation of the alarm in an emergency.

Third, the alarms looked at include buzzers, flashing lights, bells, or a combination of two of the above.

Fourth, it is worth noting that a flashing light, on its own, will only attract attention of a passer-by, and is, therefore, not of much value in quiet roads, cul-de-sacs and isolated cottages.

Fifth, a buzzer, on its own, may sound quite loud in an enclosed space but if carried in a pocket or bag may not produce sufficient noise to penetrate thick walls. Indeed, a buzzer, mounted on an outside wall, was found by Cricklade & Wootton Bassett RDC to be too quiet to penetrate the walls of neighbouring houses and rouse sleeping occupants. Since then mains operated bells, with an additional flashing light, have proved very effective in attracting attention in Council owned properties.

Sixth, cost is an important factor. The cheapest aid costs only 30p – the dearest, £40 plus. One point to keep in mind is the cost of 'optional extras'. Cost of installation is yet another. Efficiency and safety are also two points to be taken into consideration; value for money is a must for organisations such as ours.

Seventh, the alarms all rely on visual and/or audible signals and for the system to work effectively neighbours, postmen, milkmen, and, of course, the police, must be informed of the installation and the need to be on the alert for signals.

Eighth, some devices use radio waves and, therefore, may require a transmitting licence. Check with the Post Office Telecommunications Department if in doubt.

Ninth, all the local authorities contacted have only limited knowledge of the types of alarm systems available and tend to emphasise the merits of the type of system(s) in use in their area.

Tenth, a system of real value in an urban situation may have considerably less worth in a rural setting. The circumstances of individuals

also vary and must be taken into consideration when choosing a warning device.

All the manually operated systems rely on the elderly or disabled person being able to operate the switch/pull cord to set off the alarm. Certain situations, such as unconsciousness, would make such a system valueless. In circumstances such as unconsciousness only an automatic system is of any worth. Of the automatic systems the one I favour most is the Lavatory Tank alarm produced by Londex Ltd. It is, however, pricey and costs £15.62.

A much cheaper device, although with the drawback that it is manually operated, is the 'Warley Warning System'. This device was designed by the Chief Fire Officer of the County Borough of Warley, Mr J Arnold. It has the merit, not included in the Lavatory Tank device, of being an automatic fire alarm as well. It thus has the advantage of being of real value in preventing fatalities from fire in the home involving elderly or disabled people living alone. The cost of this device is £5.875p.

An automatic alarm system, incorporating an automatic fire alarm, which can be operated manually if needed, operating a really loud bell combined with a flashing light is, in my opinion, of the greatest value. Such a device has not yet, to my knowledge, been invented.

---

## Obituary

We regret to announce the death, in April, of Eric W R Benson, West Midlands Area Treasurer for the past 16 years and former member of North Western Area Executive. An efficient and loyal servant of the Movement despite great physical handicaps.

**We also regret to announce the death of the following members:**

**In February:** Leslie G Allen (Fair Oak), Mary Lonsdale (Darlington Central).

**In March:** C May Brock (Bideford), L James Bunce (Purton), the Rev Thomas J Farley-Pettman (Parkstone), Major H Raymond J Holmes (Southern Area), Frank Steventon (Manchester Area), Robert Turner (Southern Area).

**In April:** Frederick W Evans (Paignton), Charles T Kewn (Kennington, and headquarters caretaker), Elizabeth A Oxenham (Leominster), Reginald F Tigwell (Hartley Wintney).

**We give thanks for their lives.**

# PRACTICALLY, A BRANCH

## 6. What's it all about?

George Lee

Addicts of the square box will perhaps recognise this title as the basis of one of Cilla Black's favourite songs. Now I am not an addict of the box, nor am I stupid enough to begin to believe that in six short articles I can even begin to suggest what Toc H is all about.

Certainly it means different things to different people. At times it may even mean the same thing to most members. Of one thing I am certain, that at no time must it ever mean anything to anybody according to their own likes or dislikes. We must have some clue as to what it really is about.

For me the two most important specific aspects worth mentioning are the point of departure and the objective. The point of departure must always be where people are here and now – not where we think they should be, not where we would like them to be, nor even what we would like them to be – but where they actually are, and what they are when we meet them. The objective is then tellingly emphasised in the title of that precious book by Bob Knight – that we should all be making an honest test of the way of life called Christian.

Now in between those two there is a lifetime of adventure and experience, and our responsibility, our privilege and our joy is simply to provide opportunities for people to meet together so that they too may begin to make that test, not alone, but in company with others who have already made a personal commitment to that end.

It is certainly not for me even to begin to predict how that encounter will, or should be worked out. In fact I am sure that if we keep the objective in mind we shall discover that there is no need to predict. I say that because there is ample evidence that provided we are ready to accept people as they are, and where they are, and are ready to share an experience with them, then the Holy Spirit is still to be found working in and through the Movement as of old. Attempt to be gimmicky, over-concern ourselves with the matter of recruiting, recruiting simply out of a concern for numerical strength, or forget or ignore the true objective and we become hopelessly, messily unstuck.

In previous articles in this series I have sought to indicate what are for me some of the signposts along that road of experience. To be true to itself, though, Toc H must provide the opportunities not only for us to meet together, but for those to meet together who would not normally feel they had any common basis for ever meeting one another. While for some of us this may well mean the continuation of a weekly meeting in a specified place at a specified time, and for others meeting on a project or a job, whether long term and regular, sporadic or even just a one-off effort, any opportunity of bringing people together, so long as it is relevant to the purpose of Toc H, remains a valid experience.

Toc H is not a social service organisation in the generally accepted sense of that term. It is true that Toc H is not so much a matter of words as of action, but as John Callf repeatedly sought to stress in *The Second Mile* when we prepare ourselves to meet any need in caring and sharing our actions are a combination of a 'pain in the mind' and work with our hands and the two are complementary.

Additionally we must always remain a part of, and never be aloof from, the rest of the community, bearing in mind that our role is that of augmenting and supplementing the work of others in our community. Working with and for kindred bodies is a commitment we dare not shirk. We discover in the process that we have much to learn from each other, much to give to each other, and the community stands to gain from such co-operation.

This would seem to bring us naturally to the matter of full stewardship within Toc H, for while money is a necessary part of our total stewardship it is after all only a part and we cannot begin to salve a conscience or believe we have fulfilled our obligations simply on a financial basis however large or small that may be. Indeed, only the full use of all our gifts and talents will enable Toc H to fulfil its true and fuller role in society.

Now all this of course is terribly demanding and testing and will obviously prove not to be everyone's cup of tea, but I am suggesting that if WE, that is you and I, would only take the challenge of Toc H perhaps a little more



seriously, and made the purpose of the Movement a little more telling in our lives, in our own caring and sharing, in our own experience, then some will, as many have over the years, begin to see in us something of the true glory, and of their own free will want to come in and share with us, learn with us, give to us.

Let's face it, even in a whole lifetime none of us can begin to catch more than a mere glimpse of what life is all about. It would be fatuous indeed to suggest, however much we believe that 'God so wonderfully made Toc H', that we can just sit back and leave it all to Him. Yet I can say most emphatically that if we strive to be good stewards, striving in both our individual and corporate life to give an honest test to this particular way of life, we shall discover, and at times be truly amazed at, the way in which the Holy Spirit is ready and able to work in and through us to fulfil God's purpose for His people and His world. Now some may say it is useless dwelling on anticipation of remote possibilities, but each one of us can begin on the humbler, yet harder problem – ourselves! Certainly Toc H cannot change unless we its members first change; Toc H cannot grow unless we its members first begin to grow; Toc H cannot begin to fulfil its true and full role unless first we its members begin to fulfil our role in society.

It was once said that whilst all must be made welcome we must never water down the purpose of Toc H in order to win more adherents, and that the lure of big battalions must never stampede the Movement. We must however feel enough about this Movement of ours to want others to come in and in some way or other share the experience with us, whether or not that be as actual members. But this means that we, the present members, must ourselves have more than an inkling of what it is all about, and what it can mean to the world of which we are a part. Some, unfortunately, still seem to go on believing that we can exist on our history and our glorious traditions for years to come. The truth is that unless we in our time build on those traditions, and in our own time create history, none of us will ever discover the true glory.

Reports, surveys, gimmickry may all serve their purpose at a moment of time, but the only thing that has lasting merit is that Toc H is still concerned with people, and that all our words and actions are aimed not merely at striving to become practically a branch. In whatever sphere of the Movement's activities we find ourselves our role is the same – that of giving practical expression to a way of life called Christian.

### **A Practical Hint:**

Yes my friends, there is but one to end the series.

It would be easy, so easy to be tempted to end this series with a catalogue of advice, yet the only really practical hint is common to us all – if we want to discover something of what it is all about in order that our branch of this Family shall become a more telling and vital and practical example of the claims of this Movement then we must **go out and try it, test it, and prove it for ourselves.**  
... and may the Lord go with us.

---

## **Welcome Point**

The following branches elected new members during April:

6–Herne Bay (j).  
3–Harefield (j), Llanllwch (m), Melrose (j), Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay (j).  
2–Central, Chingford (j), High Brooms (m), Leicester (w), Mundesley (m), Sunderland (j), Thurrock (m).  
1–Ashford & Kennington (w), Bitterne (w), Bournemouth (j), Buckingham (m), Charlton (m), Clacton (w), Conway (m), Cottingham (w), Cowes & East Cowes (m), Durdham Down (m), Edinburgh (m), Edinburgh (w), Eltham (m), Exmouth (m), Honiton (w), Leatherhead (m), Mold (w), Netherton (w), Nottingham City (m), Ramsgate (w), RHHI Putney (w), Saughall (j), Scottish Area, Solihull (m), Uxbridge (m), Western Area, Weybridge (m), Winchester (j).  
**We extend a warm welcome to the 60 new members.**



## 'I'M RETIRING IN SIX MONTHS'

Following last month's article which outlined some of the problems people face when they retire, Doug Morris, of Salisbury, suggests one practical way in which Toc H might help.





I'm retiring in six months. What can I do? I will stagnate. My house is always kept in good order. What can I do in the garden - I don't know a weed from a plant? What can I do when I can't go in the garden? I wish I could do a bit of wood-work. I could use the garage. I could make it warm and work there in the winter - I could turn out that old shed in the garden and use that - if only I knew a bit about woodwork or brick laying. I could help more with the local club, if I knew a bit about paper work, admin and all that - but I have never had to do that sort of thing in the past.

I wish I knew a bit more about electrics - wiring new sockets - electric fires - sound equipment. I could do a few odd jobs in the church hall. I wish I had a good hobby - now I have all the time I need and what can I do with it? Photography - that's it - but what do I know about cameras - or printing or developing?

A former headmistress who took a secretarial course to help her carry out her duties as a member of her local Citizens' Advice Bureau.



**Left** This one-time British Leyland toolroom worker can't sit back and watch time fly. He's far too busy mending old clocks, at which he has become an expert.

Photo: courtesy Pre-Retirement Association

I could play bowls but what do I know about bias crown greens - links? I could take up bird watching, not the ones I used to chat up in the typing pool, but the feathered variety, but I don't know a seagull from a duck-billed platypus.

I wish I could have four weeks with a gardener, a wood-worker, an electrician, a photographer, an administrator, a bricklayer, a decorator, an ornithologist, a painter, a philatelist - I wish there was a centre where I could go for a few weeks and find out.

This is a cry to Toc H - instead of trying to combat loneliness in old age why not try to avoid it - stop it before it starts?

Give men and women a new interest in life. Teach them what to do in their new found leisure-time.

The Army had the right idea in the 50's and 60's when many officers and men were coming out as the establishment was run down.

A Rehabilitation Centre - but, please, a different name (*Retirement Study Centre* is a suggestion).

1 A place for newly retired men and women to go for four to six weeks' residential courses.

To study what to do in retirement - to be instructed by carpenters, bricklayers, gardeners, electricians, painters and decorators and many people with special interests in various hobbies and leisure pursuits of every kind.

2 A place to talk over the problems of retirement with each other in groups and to receive advice from welfare organisations - taxmen - health workers etc.

3 A place for research by experts into the problems of retirement and greater use of increased leisure time.

A charge could be made for food and accommodation. 'The experts' could be invited to give their services free. Many of the 'experts' could be Toc H members themselves.

There is a demand for this, in which Toc H could show the way just as it did with 'The Blood Bank', hospital broadcasts and many other organisations now nationally adopted.

The problem of loneliness in old age, at present, is huge and it is getting bigger. We should try to prevent it rather than cure it. Toc H could light the way using the money it now has available to establish a really good Retirement Study Centre which could be the pilot scheme for the nation.



# Letters

## 'Homes' for the retired

What a wonderful idea to have 'homes' (not Marks) for the elderly members. Surely they have deserved this, having worked hard in serving others in their time. But let us first get the property and then decide on staff, depending on the number we would accommodate, at reasonable charges.

I suggest 'sunny Worthing' as a possible locality, where the weather is generally mild and the winters good.

Think it over - members.

**Gladys A Jarvis** (ex warden/  
caterer) *Worthing*

I was most interested in Noel Wolstenholme's letter in March under the heading 'Mark for the elderly'. I feel there would be a definite demand from the London area for a property in Surrey, Sussex, Hertfordshire or elsewhere. But not to be termed a Mark or classed for the elderly. A syndicate could be formed by the bachelor and widower members of Toc H - say 16 or 20 men each contributing £3,000. If necessary a small mortgage could be arranged. I don't feel it would be necessary to use any of Toc H's new income, just its sound advice, guidance, and real fellowship. Members could be asked, but not compelled, to bequeath their interest to the syndicate.

A housekeeper and assistant would be required, and members would pay £16 per week to cover costs. If land was available additions and improvements could be made.

This idea could be improved upon and enlarged and I hope members will submit their reactions.

**Douglas A Southwood** *London*

Fleet women's branch would like to suggest that some of the two million pounds be spent on providing a house containing flatlets for retired Toc H staff, with a

resident warden. This suggestion has the approval of the West Surrey District Team.

**Elsie C Wright** *Fleet, Hants*

## 'to practise thanksgiving'

Keith Beck's message in April brought a joyful sense of thanksgiving to me. Since I joined Toc H it has become one of the most powerful influences in my life. It is my belief that until we experience this 'giving which is called thanksgiving' we cannot know the tremendous reward which begins to flow from the action. For me this has been decisively proved in the use of Thank-U-Grans. These are designed to develop the faculty of appreciation, and to spread goodwill. This leads into the discovery of good of which you are not aware. Your perspective will change. You will see that half glass of water as HALFFULL, not HALF EMPTY. The process and the action of sending Thank-U-Grans is the important part of the deed. Once this faculty is developed, the results will astound you.

For the Christian a thankful heart leads directly to loving widely, which in turn brings understanding of all that God has already given to us. Thence out of prayerful thanksgiving for what we have received in the past, we make our approach to Him in the present, in dependence upon Him for the future. Our whole religion is a matter of thanksgiving: gratitude is the hall-mark of the Christian, who seeks to please God not for fear of what God may do to him if he fails, but in thankfulness for what God has already done for him, and through him for others.

**Edwin Harrison** *Bakenell, Derbys*

## Our image

What's wrong with our image? The uninitiated still think of us as World War I veterans. We have no need to forget our beginnings but, although it may shock many

dichards, when asked what 'Toc H stands for let us say, 'To Offer Continuous Help. We can resurrect our outdated signallers' code if we wish - but few will understand it. Let's think future, not past.

**Edward Adkins** *Netherton, Yorks*

## Finance

For more years than I care to remember the mere mention of the word finance seems to have provoked more discussion and sometimes disagreement than any other subject, nevertheless I make no apologies for mentioning this thorny problem yet again.

At this point in time it is particularly disturbing to find that there is a tendency on the part of some of the membership (a small part I am glad to say) to think that the recent sale of Trinity Square somehow absolves them from their financial obligations to the Movement. It cannot be too clearly stated that our new income is NOT AN ALTERNATIVE but an addition to membership-giving and that the decisions made by the Central Council concerning the future of the Movement can only be implemented by the Central Executive if income both old and new is available. *Strategy for the Seventies* clearly sets out our course for the next few years and we will only achieve our goal if all members are willing to play their part financially and otherwise. The words 'Members are called upon to make possible a staff which shall serve the Movement in its world-wide quest for the path of Christ' are not to be taken lightly by any of us.

**John Morgan** *Ruislip, Middx*

There are still a few vacancies for the Veterans' party to Poperinge, September 17-21. Open to any member who would like to take the opportunity of combining a visit to the Old House with a tour of the battlefields. Apply to the International Secretary, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL.



# NEWSPOINT

## £50,000 TARGET FOR MEMORIAL FUND

The Hon Angus Ogilvy, Vice-Patron of Toc H, has written to leading companies and charitable trusts to seek support for the Tubby Clayton Memorial Fund, which was launched in a letter to *The Times* in January. The Trustees of the Fund hope to raise a minimum of £50,000, and the Central Executive Committee has approved a gift of £10,000 from Toc H funds. The full text of the Vice-Patron's letter is as follows:

A letter in *The Times* of January 3 last after the death of the Rev P B Clayton, known almost universally as Tubby Clayton of Toc H, announced the setting up of a fund in his memory, the Tubby Clayton Memorial Fund.

The main purpose of this fund will be to develop and spread among younger people the ideals which Tubby taught throughout his life: these were, in his own words, 'to promote among ordinary men and women, particularly younger people, the practice of fellowship, fairmindedness and service for others.' To do this, new thinking and new methods are needed, as Tubby himself knew well, and new projects and fresh

means of training for leadership are required. The fund will be used for these purposes, and especially for 'pump-priming' of new experiments.

It is proposed to confine the application of this fund to Britain in the belief that other countries will be creating their own memorials to Tubby. The need for new thinking and new methods is especially urgent in London and other large urban areas.

The fund will be administered by the trustees appointed under the provisions of the Royal Charter of Toc H, but will be kept as a separate and distinct trust with its own administration, and it is their intention to invite a panel of

experts to advise them in distribution of grants.

As a result of the letter in *The Times*, generous donations have already been received and Toc H has granted £10,000.

To fulfil the purposes of the appeal a minimum total of £50,000 is required and the trustees hope that there will be a ready response not only from those who knew and revered Tubby Clayton, but also from others who realise how urgent is the need in our day for fellowship, fairmindedness and service.

Donations may be sent to me c/o Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 6BT.

## Golden Tunbridge Wells

Tunbridge Wells, Kent, branch celebrated its Golden Jubilee on March 26 at a service attended by 420 people. Preacher was the Right Rev Russell B White, former Bishop of Tonbridge – and one of three Bishops attending the service.

The first chairman of the branch was the late Stan Berwick, who later served as honorary treasurer of the Movement; and the first branch padre was the Rev Gilbert

Williams, who joined the full time staff of Toc H in 1924.

One of the branch's main contributions at the present time is the provision of transport for the handicapped. A 'custom-built' coach was bought in the spring of 1972 at a cost of over £4,000, and is extensively used by hospitals and homes to give the disabled an opportunity of visiting the countryside and the coast.

## Stamp appeal's record year

Charles Wake's stamp appeal has had its most successful year yet. The sale of used stamps brought in a total of £360, compared to £304 during the previous year. Says Charles: 'I had hoped for a total of £400, but a rise of £56 cannot be complained about'. You can help Charles reach his target of £400 for the Family Purse this year by sending him the stamps from all your overseas letters. His address is: Rockcliffe, 7 Leyburn Grove, Paignton, Devon.

# Emergency call schemes dangerous?

Norman Chidley

Edmonton branch is expecting to start installing flashing light emergency call systems within the next few weeks. Most of the advance press publicity has been very good, but one article, although it later rebounded in their favour, was critical of the scheme.

Needless to say, it was written by a reporter who, although invited to a demonstration, did not attend the meeting. His complaint was that the presence of the light in the window might attract the attention of undesirable characters, as he understood had happened a while ago in South London.

From my enquiries, I understand that the scheme he referred to comprised a lamp and battery unit contained in a large white box mounted in the middle of the window, with instructions as to its

purpose in large letters on or near the box. Clearly, such a system can be seen by all when not in use, and is open to objection because of this.

Once the reporter was told that the scheme to be adopted at Edmonton uses equipment that is invisible from the road when not in use, he published a generous correction and his paper is now in full support of the system. The incident does draw attention both to the danger that uninformed criticism may cast unnecessary doubts in the minds of recipients of such lights, and to the need for any organisation which may still operate a system which can be spotted when not working, to give early consideration to changing to one of the type in use in West Essex which has proved itself to be safe in this respect.

## Visitor from Umtali

Geoff Crisp, who built up the flourishing volunteer group at the African Umtali Teachers' Training College in Rhodesia, will be visiting Britain this July and August and hopes to visit a number of branches during his stay. He expects to be in Surrey, Bedford, Cambridge, Norfolk, Yorkshire and Scotland and invitations can be sent via Greta Lynn, International Secretary, at Headquarters.

The volunteer group, which has been featured several times in *Point Three*, has 67 members at present. Strenuous efforts are made to keep in touch with the volunteers when they leave college and two ex-students from Umtali attended this year's National Conference of Toc H Rhodesia, together with three of the present members of the group.



A cup of tea for the oldest guest (she's aged 92) at the 26th annual party for the elderly organised by Early, Berks, branch. 130 guests enjoyed the entertainment, by the Reading Operatic Society and a concert party from the Methodist Church.

Photo: C E May & Son

## Help for deaf athlete

Philip Liner

Latest chapter in the saga of the connections between Toc H New Zealand and athletics, concerns the sole New Zealand representative at the Deaf Olympics to be held in Sweden. Christchurch's Robert Forrest has been rewarded for perseverance and dedication by being chosen to represent his country overseas. Robert, who is 20, has been turning in some impressive times on the track under the guidance of Toc H coach Paul Taylor. His best time in his specialist distance, 800 metres, is 2 minutes 1.7 seconds, but before the games begin he's expected to have trimmed this down at least to a round 2 minutes. Coach Taylor says his charge is 'a fantastic fellow with his ability to pick things up quickly in spite of his disability. He has a lot of potential,

and this season alone he has already reduced his best 800 metres time by 10 seconds and his 1500 metres time by 25 seconds'.

Robert's mother is quoted as saying 'The Toc H club has been wonderful to him'. Robert himself is a Christchurch shoe factory worker, and he made a name for himself last year when he claimed three titles at the New Zealand Deaf Club's Convention which incorporated a sports meeting. He won the 800/1500 metres double, the triple jump, and also gained third place in the 100 metres.

Whilst Robert Forrest will be wearing New Zealand's colours in Sweden, the badge on his heart will be that of Toc H, and the good wishes of the whole Movement, not only in New Zealand, will be going with him.



## Film projector reaches Bombay

Ted Curry

Northampton District's response to an appeal for a film projector from Fort branch in Bombay was reported in *Point Three* in July last year. Neville Jacklin, Northampton branch secretary, has now received the following from S John, secretary of Fort branch: 'I am now happy to inform you that I have received on March 3 the projector and the accessories - all safely - except the screen packed separately . . . We have run the projector and found it working well to our complete satisfaction . . . The consignment was cleared without payment of any customs duty or wharfrage charges'.

So after all these months of waiting for news it is delivered safely into their hands, to the infinite relief of Northampton members who feared the consignment had been lost or, even worse, stolen in transit. The difficulty was not the transportation but the tremendous 'red tape' that had to be cut before the customs people in Bombay would release the equipment duty free. Bell and Howell projectors are very scarce in India and there was always a serious danger that Fort branch would have been called upon to pay 100 per cent *ad valorem* customs duty.

A film unit was formed in Northampton in 1948 and the equipment sent to Bombay was purchased in 1956 and was put to good use for 16 years. Now it has acquired a new lease of life.

## Come to Regent's Park

West Central branch and Mark 7 will be joining forces to hold the usual party in London's Regent's Park. The party will be at The Holme, Bedford College on Saturday July 28, from 6 pm to 9 pm. Details from Anne Fletcher, 9 Oman Court, Oman Avenue, London NW2 6AY.



Members of the joint branch in Southport, Lancs, enjoy their social events. Their annual dinner was a slap-up affair held at the Botanic Gardens.

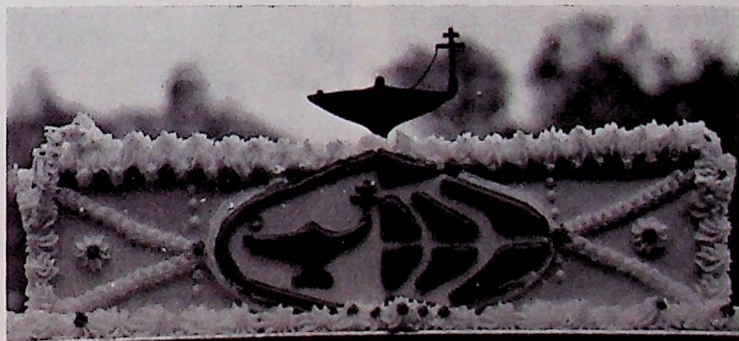
Photo: Stephenson Newspapers

## Clayton Memorial Lecture

Lepra, the British Leprosy Relief Association, has decided to perpetuate Tubby's memory by sponsoring an annual lecture to be given at a university in the United Kingdom. The lecture, to be called 'The Clayton Memorial Lecture', will be on some aspect of leprosy and given by a person of high standing in the field. Lepra has taken this action in recognition of the fact that it owes the existence of its overseas staff to Tubby's inspiration. Lepra hopes that the Lecture, while primarily of interest to medical students, will also encourage others, particularly young people, to devote some of their time and skills to combatting leprosy in whatever sphere may be possible to them.

## Jane Seymour and Brisbane

Dick French writes from Peterborough to tell us that his wife recently went out to Brisbane, Australia, to visit their daughter and while there she discovered a link between Jane Seymour, wife of Henry VIII and mother of Edward VI, and Toc H Brisbane. The branch room, in an old railway station, contains a cross made by Frank Biggs, of Marlborough, Wilts. The cross is made from two beams of wood, one of which comes from the mansion in which Jane Seymour lived, and is thus well over 400 years old. Dick adds that members in Brisbane were delighted to have a visitor from England.



A new use for the Toc H symbol in Chingford, Essex. As decoration on the birthday cake made for the branch's rededication in April.



## Farewell to Ted Hillman

Members in the South Wales District gathered in March to pay tribute to Ted Hillman on his retirement as warden of the Toc H Centre in Cardiff. Before moving to Cardiff Ted served the Movement at the Talbot House Young Seafarers' Club in Southampton. *Point Three* correspondent Ethel Davey writes: 'Ted, who since the inception of the Centre had seen to the comfort and happiness of all who entered its doors, received many tokens of esteem from within the Movement and from organisations which use the Centre. But we did not say goodbye. We have a date with Ted when the debt on the Centre is cleared and we celebrate. We welcome the new wardens, Mr and Mrs D Brooks and their small daughter, Joan.'

## Remembering Jack Steer

Members in Swindon, Wilts, have bought one of the new chair-mobiles and presented it to a local organisation for the handicapped in memory of Jack Steer, who died last October.

Jack Steer first met Toc H in 1935, when he lived in the Mark in Leicester. During this time he helped to start a branch at Blaby. He linked up with Toc H again in Swindon and then his work took him to Malaya. While there he helped to found a branch at Kuala Lumpur. Returning to the Swindon District he settled in Cricklade and joined Purton branch. He was an active member of the Swindon District Team, holding office as vice-chairman and, for the last two years of his life, chairman. In addition he found time to serve as secretary of the Cricklade Old People's Welfare Committee and to help at a home for crippled children - a job in which he involved several members of Purton branch.

## In brief...

The Fylde District Spring Festival in Blackpool attracted 250 members and friends. Preacher was Bob Knight, headquarters padre, and the guest speaker was former staff member Iain Fraser.

Another former staff member, Bob Purdy, was guest speaker at the first social evening held by the newly formed Doncaster branch. He told the 60 guests how Toc H came to acquire the lease of Colsterdale.

Grays, Essex, women's branch has donated a tree as part of the 'Plant a tree in '73' campaign. Members have also entertained close on 80 friends who have helped the branch in various ways during the past year.

Following a visit by Ray Fabes of the Midland Region staff, pupils at the North Walsham Secondary Modern School in Norfolk have sent a donation of £10 towards the cost of the children's camp to be held in the county this summer. The money was raised by holding a raffle of Easter eggs.

And pupils of St Mark's Church of England School, Natland, Westmoreland, have raised £50 for the relief of leprosy victims, following a talk on the subject by Kendal branch member Eric Teasdale.

In South London Streatham women's branch has run its annual concert by young people for patients at the British Home and Hospital for Incurables, over 40 of whom are Toc H Builders.

A concert by the Black Dyke Mills Band, arranged by Kettering, Northants, branch raised £50 for James Derry, whose parents are trying to raise £1,000 to take him to America for treatment for brain damage.

A thank-you letter in braille was sent to the organisers of a bazaar which raised £300 for the Hemel Hempstead, Herts, Toc H Blind Club.

Ralph Thorne, Northern Regional chairman, and Johnnie MacMillan and Peth Davidson, of the Regional Staff, were among the 200 people present when the new branch at Pant, near Oswestry, Shropshire, received its Lamp.

Our warm good wishes to Greta Penness, International Secretary, on her marriage to John Lynn. The wedding took place in Greta's home town, Rushden, Northants.

Crawley branch organised two concerts for the residents of Forest Hospital, Horsham. The singing at the first was led by two local choirs and the MC was Padre Edgar Wallace, Industrial Chaplain. The second was an 'Olde Tyme' musical evening when a group of local players entertained. On both occasions, the residents who are mentally handicapped, joined in with great enthusiasm.



# PICTUREPOINT



*Above* Lou Turner, who was for 31 years secretary in the Western Area office, being given a bouquet by the warden on moving into Holly Court, a block of flats in Bristol built by Help the Aged under its sheltered housing scheme. Lou, whose flat is on the fourth floor, has a wonderful view over Bristol from her window. She told *Point Three* correspondent Margaret Eaton that meeting and mixing with the other elderly people who have been rehoused in Holly Court gives her great pleasure in her retirement.

*Photo: Bristol Evening Post.*



Members of the women's branch at Staunton Harold Cheshire Home in Leicestershire. Kathleen Evans, who has worked in the occupational therapy department for the past 16 years and who was one of the founders of the branch 12 years ago, tells us that the branch continues to meet fortnightly. Film shows have been particularly popular items on the programme. Mary Flint (third from right) has died since this picture was taken.

*Below* The changing face of BAOR. The Toc H services' clubs are appreciated by wives and children as much as by the troops themselves and Wyn Howlett (that's her holding the baby) has opened a families' room at the newest Toc H club in Wolfenbuttel. This facility is particularly needed now that so many families are left behind in Germany when regiments are posted to Northern Ireland. Both Wyn and her husband Frank were members in Dundee before volunteering to serve the Movement full time in Germany.



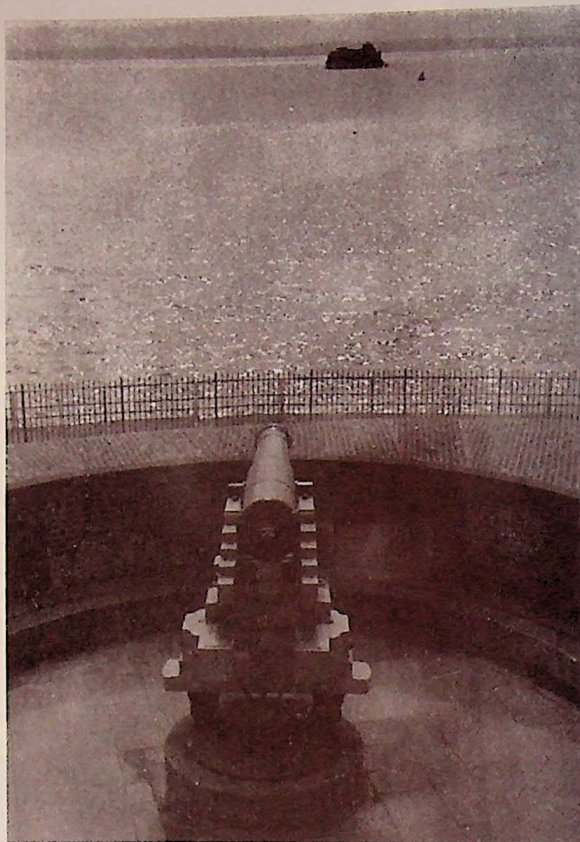
The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Grease has become a regular feature of the Surrey social calendar. This year's party, for which Fleet women's branch were the hosts, attracted 120 people. Winners of the contest for the second year running were Weybridge. The director, Sandy Giles, looks on as Mrs Kay Thake, chairman of the host branch, presents the Surrey Puma trophy to the winning team. *Photo: Aldershot News & Mail.*





# war games in hampshire

Alan Guy, of the Western Regional staff, introduces a project with a difference.

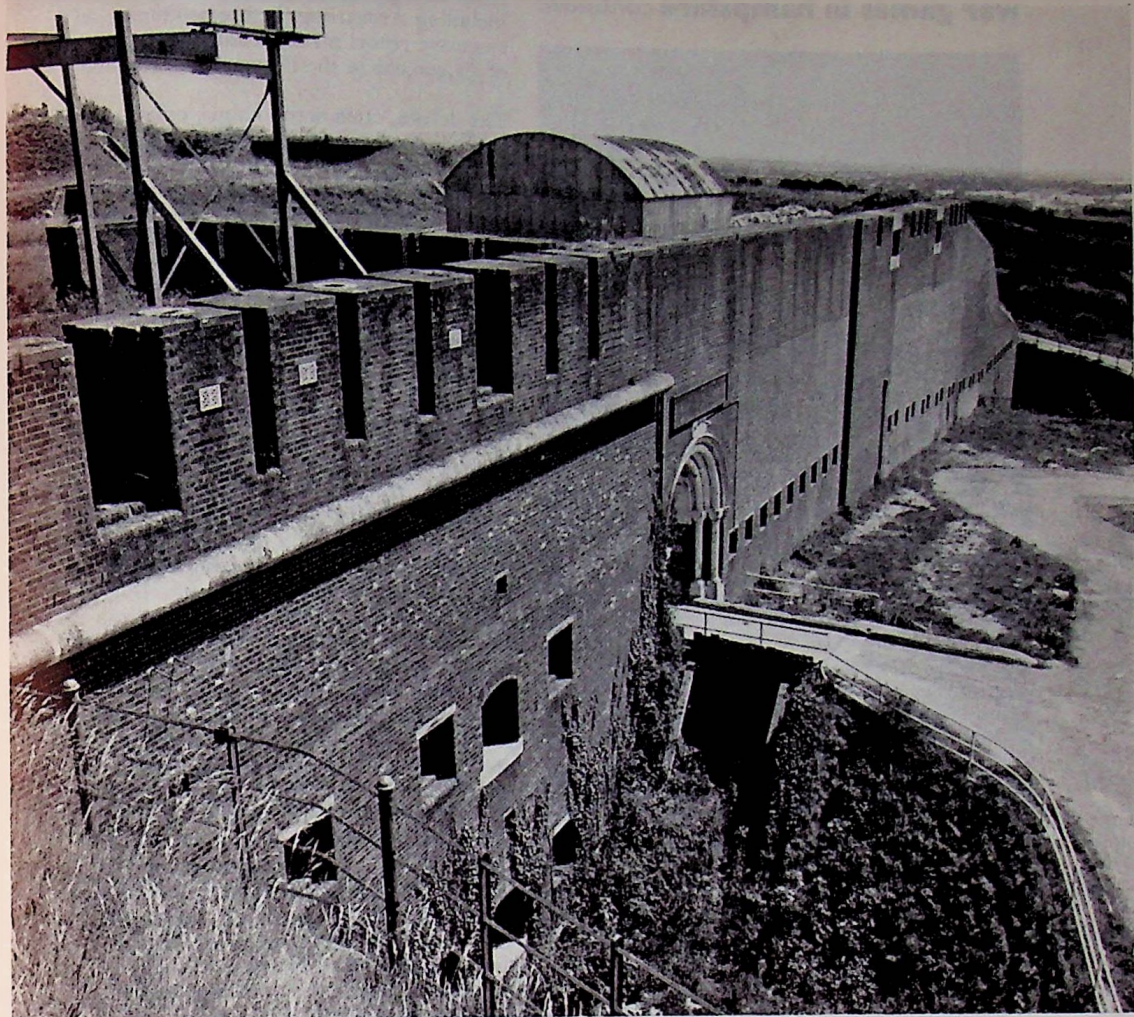


Looking out from Southsea Castle (which is in the care of Portsmouth Corporation) to Spitbank Fort, with the Isle of Wight in the background. The gun is a 64 pounder, rifled muzzle loader, on a traversing barbette carriage.  
Photo: Crispin White

The Western Region's newest project rejoices in the name of 'The War game', but we would like to assure pacific members that no harm is intended to the participants. The name is merely a conveniently brief title for the study of some of the most remarkable structures in Britain – the forts and coastal batteries of the mid-Victorian era. They are known collectively if erroneously – as 'Palmerston's Follies' – Lord Palmerston being the Prime Minister under whose aegis they were begun. Though parallel

works exist at Chatham, the Medway, Portland, Plymouth, Milford Haven and Pembroke (many of them being visited during the preparations for the project) nowhere are they clustered more thickly than at Portsmouth – the country's premier dockyard – and in the Isle of Wight. Here, they stretch in a huge detached ring around the surrounding country, protecting the vulnerable naval base from bombardment, and the anchorage of Spithead from occupation by hostile vessels. The Belgian military engineer





**The east gate of Fort Purbrook, which may well be 'home' for those taking part in next month's 'War Game' project.**

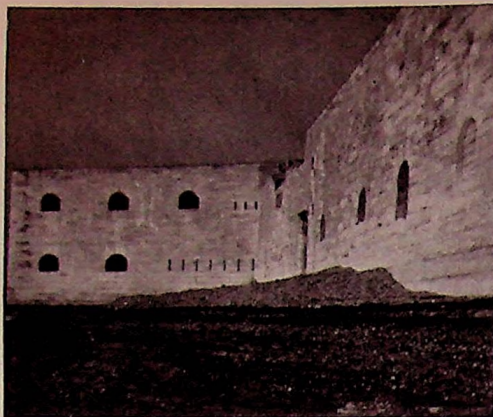
Photo : The News, Portsmouth

Brialmont wrote in 1891 that these works led the field in Europe, while Portsmouth remained the most heavily defended European harbour except for Antwerp.

The development of the fortifications was prompted by a justified, if exaggerated fear of France under Louis-Philippe and, most particularly, Napoleon III. Despite periods of co-operation, as during the Crimean war, interests clashed repeatedly in Spain, the Pacific,

the Near and Middle East and North Africa. There were minor invasion scares in 1845-7 and again in 1851. There were serious fears of Britain losing her naval supremacy to France: in 1853 Mr James Ferguson, a civilian 'expert' on fortification, who indulged in frequent literary feuds with the Royal Engineers, was forecasting that the new French screw line of battleships (still built of wood in the traditional way) could, by steaming by them at 10 knots, treat Portsmouth's existing defences with





A two tiered casemated flanker for Portsmouth sally port battery. The photo was taken by 12-year-old Kenny Flint during last summer's 'Through the eye of a camera' project.

impunity. In 1859 British fears were increased with the appearance of the first ironclad – the French frigate 'la Gloire' designed by the brilliant naval architect Dupuy de Lôme and other experiments with armoured steamers during the Crimean war. This vessel threatened existing 'wooden walls' with obsolescence, and with them British naval superiority. At the same time experiments by the British engineers Joseph Whitworth and, most notably, William Armstrong, led to the production of rifled ordnance that could hurl a missile over 8,000 yards – the previous maximum being 4,000 yards. Earlier use of a spherical shell invented by the French Captain Paixhans had shown how vulnerable wooden ships were to shell fire. 'Armstrong' shells were elongated – ensuring greater accuracy at far greater range. For the moment Britain had a monopoly of these weapons, but this could not be expected to last.

It was well known that Portsmouth was regarded as a decisive point by the French, either as a bridgehead to launch an invasion, a bargaining point to be held as a French fortress or simply as the centre of British naval power which could be destroyed by bombardment. The response was to modify existing fortifications, or build some new, rather precocious works at selected points: this had been going on for some years before the great Royal Commission on the National Defences of 1859, summoned by Lord Palmerston. Only works built after this qualify for the title of 'Palmerston's follies'. The Commission heard a vast amount of evidence

from various soldiers, sailors and civilian experts, including Armstrong, before producing an extensive report recommending an expenditure of £2,400,000 in the Portsmouth area alone.

The debate, often acrimonious, continued in Cabinet, Parliament, committee and public press for what amounted to many years: the evidence relating to ships versus forts was not conclusive – some of Armstrong's breech loaders were found to be unreliable: various methods of constructing forts were tested and rejected, while the ubiquitous question of expense prompted a scaling down of the Commission's original requirements. Nevertheless at Portsmouth the 'ring' slowly took shape.

To cope with the increased range of guns Portsdown Hill, a long escarpment to the north of the city, was occupied by six detached forts, their guns commanding the land in between, while four casemated towers were built with prodigious effort on the shoals in the Solent. The Hill forts were largely completed by 1867, the Solent forts not until 1880.

Sadly, interest in these splendid works is at present small, and in Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight and elsewhere many have been allowed to decay or have been systematically destroyed to provide unsightly dens for caravans, or noticeably sub-standard car parks. By a sad coincidence it seems to be the rare pre-Royal Commission works that have suffered most. At other times the picture is brighter. Both the Department of the Environment and Portsmouth Corporation seem to be alive to the possibility of preserving some, if not all of the forts, while others linger relatively safely in the control of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Looking towards the future, the Western Region of Toc H would like to be able to undertake some conservation work at particular sites, besides interesting people in the place of these unique fortifications in the history of that art.

Last, but not least, I hope it will be obvious that besides doing a valuable piece of work, we will be introducing Toc H to some people who may be as unlikely as anybody else working with the Movement, and Palmerston's 'folly' may well be Toc H's gain.

'The War Game': Project No 65: 12 – 21 July 1973: cost £8. For local historians, student teachers, military historians and anyone else interested. Gumboots and torch absolutely essential! Enquiries to Western Regional Projects Office, 148 Ashley Down Road, Ashley Down, Bristol 7.



# Small Advertisements

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p). *Point Three Magazine*, Toc H Headquarters, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL. Telephone 01-709 0472.

**RAISE FUNDS QUICKLY, EASILY.** Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc. gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD2 3AF.

Have you seen the great improvements recently made at **WARDEN MANOR**, including H & C in some bedrooms, new roof and new tennis court? Historic manor house (recorded history dating from 13th century), set in unspoilt country near sea edge. 1973 extended season, vacancies June 30-July 28, August 4-September 1, September 8-15. Excellent Toc H fellowship. Cost £10.75 to £12.75 weekly (children £8.50) plus VAT; includes full board, 4 meals daily. Tennis, table tennis, putting, etc and all entertainments at Manor are free. Bathing is possible at Warden Bay nearby. Conferences welcomed mid-March/mid-June and mid-September/mid-December. Write John Cole, Warden Manor, Eastchurch, Kent ME12 4HD. (Tel. Eastchurch 238).

**IFTOURING KENT** or **CONTINENT** bb offered £1.50. Also **CARAVAN SITE**. F Dives. 'Sissenden', Coopers Lane, Sellinge, Ashford, Kent. Tel: 030-381 3217.

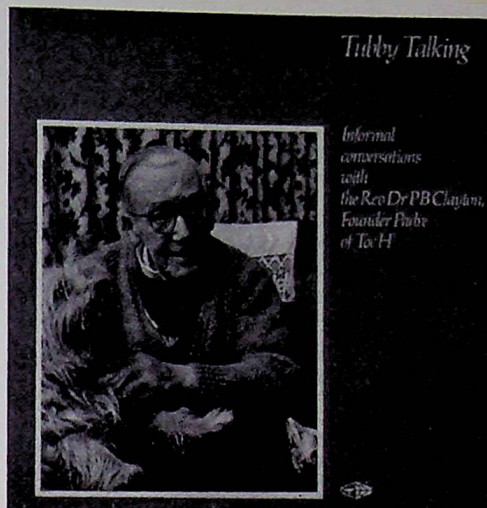
**WESTON-SUPER-MARE.** Bed and breakfast. Near A370 and M5. H and C. Car space. Mrs B E Green. 'Mon Abri', Ebdon Road, Worle. Tel: Weston-super-Mare 21957.



Mr Jules Lietaert, HOTEL JACOBS, Baliastraat 1, Bruges 8000. Telephone: (050)398 31/32.

**BRUGES, BELGIUM.** Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only.

## Tubby Talking



*Informal conversations with the Rev Dr P B Claydon, Founder Padre of Toc H*

Have you got your copy of this unique recording yet?

12 inch long-playing record, sold in attractive sleeve, with full colour photograph of the Founder Padre. Only £1.50, including postage & packing. From Toc H Publications, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

### WANTED IN BAOR

Toc H requires a woman member of staff to operate shop and trolley service in British Military Hospital, Munster, West Germany, plus other Services' Clubs duties. Age 25/50. British Passport holder. Salary scale £650/£1,220 pa according to experience, plus currency

adjustment and board and accommodation allowance. Income Tax normally not payable. Must drive. Details from: Commissioner for BAOR, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.





TOC H

# Cotswold festival

Patrons: The Hon Angus Ogilvy, Lord Dulverton, the Bishop of Worcester,  
Sir Gordon Russell, Miss Janet Suzman.

On Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd September 1973

AT DOR KNAP, BROADWAY, WORCESTERSHIRE

Saturday: 2 pm Blockley Brass Band  
3.15 Scottish Dancing  
4.45 New Anglian Singers  
7 pm "Antony and  
Cleopatra"

Sunday: 2 pm Lythwood Players  
3.15 "An Hour of Folk"  
with The Gleaners  
and Velvet Mist  
4.45 Final Concert - New  
Anglian Singers

IN THE NATURAL AMPHITHEATRE OVERLOOKING THE  
VALE OF EVESHAM

Also:

Poetry Recitals in the Conference Room on both days

Demonstrations of Spinning and Miniature Model-Making

Exhibition of International Dolls, Jewelry, Arts and Crafts and Paintings by Toc H  
members; and locally designed furniture

Grounds open from 1 pm. Free parking

Light refreshments available

Tickets: 50p per day (inclusive of all concerts, etc.), children under 14 half price  
from Toc H Cotswold Festival, Dor Knap, Broadway, Worcs.

In the event of bad weather performances will continue indoors